

Measuring Our Success



Above: Community members gather in Near NW t-shirts.

Introduction

This chapter of the Near Northwest Community Plan focuses on community indicators. The following indicators will be used to determine if progress is being made towards the community's goals.

National examples of indicators include the consumer price index, the number of highway-related fatalities and the national unemployment rate. Indicators used by people everyday include checking account balances or gas gauges. Indicators can be used to raise awareness of community issues, inform decision-making and identify trends. The results of the indicator analysis can be used to publicize good works or identify work what needs to be done. For example, the community could publish an annual report indicating progress on plan implementation as shown through positive changes measured by the community's indicators (see Action Step 10.2.1). The report also could call for volunteers or policy changes needed to spur action.

Heart of the Neighborhood

Indicator 1: Business occupancy rate and average length of lease term in the major commercial corridors.

Baseline: Business occupancy rate as of January 2002.
Average length of lease term as of January 2002.

Desired Future Outcome: Increase the business occupancy rate by 20 percent as of January 2010. Reach an average three year lease term by January 2007.

Data Source: Surveys of the business and property owners along the major commercial corridors.

Frequency of Review: Every five years.

Indicator 2: Number of owner-occupied, single-family homes in the planning area.

Baseline: Number of owner-occupied, single-family homes in the planning area as of January 2002.

Desired Future Outcome: Increase the number of owner-occupied, single-family homes.

Data Source: Bexar Appraisal District tax information – compare owner address with house address to determine whether owner-occupied.

Frequency of Review: In the first year, analyze the entire planning area. Thereafter, review 2 or 3 neighborhoods per year, rotating throughout the planning area. Begin to focus analysis on areas with higher housing turnover.

Getting Around Town

Indicator 3: Number of transit riders boarding buses within the planning area.

Baseline: Ridership as of January 2002.

Desired Future Outcome: Increase ridership by 50 percent as of January 2005.

Data Source: VIA.

Frequency of Review: Annually.

Indicator 4: Percentage of feeder streets for students walking or riding the bus to area schools that are lined with sidewalks in the planning area.

Baseline: Percentage of feeder street with sidewalks as of 2002.

Desired Future Outcome: Fifty percent increase in sidewalks by 2011.

Data Source: Sidewalk survey.

Frequency of Review: Every two years.

Places Where We Play, Gather & Learn

Indicator 5: Number of citations issued for violating City park regulations such as possessing alcohol, not having a dog on a leash, littering, etc.

Baseline: Number of citations issued in 2001.

Desired Future Outcome: Increase by 15 percent each year the number of citations issued.

Data Source: CoSA Park Rangers.

Frequency of Review: Annually.

Indicator 6: Number of amenities available in City parks located throughout the planning area.

Baseline: Number of park amenities as of January 2002.

Desired Future Outcome: Fifteen percent increase in park amenities by 2005.

Data Source: CoSA Parks and Recreation Department records and, if needed, community surveys.

Frequency of Review: Annually.

Indicator 7: Number of fairs (cultural, health, etc.) and celebrations held in planning area parks.

Baseline: Number of park events held in 2001.

Desired Future Outcome: Fifteen percent increase in the number of fairs or celebrations held each year.

Data Source: CoSA Parks and Recreation Department.

Frequency of Review: Annually.

Near Northwest Community Plan